

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 15769 230412Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 DRC-01 /027 W
-----083726 230421Z /15
O O 181101Z MAY 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1695
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE
USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PARIS 15769

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 15769 VICE 15770)

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CG, FR
SUBJ: SHABA DEVELOPMENTS

REFS: A. STATE 126064. B. STATE 125816. (NOTAL).
C. STATE 126049

1. WE DISCUSSED SHABA DEVELOPMENTS WITH QUAI DIRECTOR
FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, GUY GEORGY, MORNING OF MAY 18.
HE SAID GOF CONTINUES BE HAMPERED IN ITS JUDGMENTS
BY THE LACK OF HARD INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN
THE KOLWEZI AREA. PARTICULARLY STRIKING IS THE
APPARENT LACK OF POLITICAL CONTENT TO THE CURRENT
INCURSION AS OPPOSED TO THE EVENTS OF LAST YEAR: NO
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MANIFESTOS, DECLARATIONS, DEMANDS OR OFFERS OF NEGOTIATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, MOST REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE INVADERS ARE ACTING LIKE A BAND OF VANDALS RATHER THAN SERIOUS INSURGENTS WITH A POLITICAL AIM. THEIR PRIMARY INTEREST SEEMS IN LOOTING. THIS ELEMENT OF INDISCIPLINE AND AIMLESSNESS MAY BE A POSITIVE ELEMENT OVER THE LONGER TERM, BUT MAKES THE SITUATION

OF THE WESTERNERS AT KOLWEZI EVEN MORE DANGEROUS.
GEORGY ASKED THAT WE PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION WE HAVE
ON THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND. HE WAS PARTICULARLY
INTERESTED IN THE RESULTS OF DEBRIEFINGS OF THE
AMERICAN EVACUEES FROM THE KOLWEZI AREA.

2. WE TOLD GEORGY THAT WE DID NOT FAVOR AT THIS TIME
A ZAIRIAN ATTEMPT TO GET SECURITY COUNCIL SANCTION
OF AN EVACUATION EFFORT OR CONDEMNATION OF THE
INVASION, BUT FAVORED INSTEAD A LETTER FROM MOBUTU TO
THE SC PRESIDENT. HE AGREED. WE READ HIM THE
PROPOSED TEXT. HE APPROVED.

3. CONCERNING A POSSIBLE FRENCH EVACUATION OPERATION,
GEORGY SAID THERE WAS PLANNING TO STAGE TROOPS AS FAR
AS KINSHASA. HE IMPLIED THAT THE ACTUAL EVACUATION
OPERATION AT KOLWEZI MIGHT REQUIRE RECEIPT OF MORE
INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION LOCALLY.

4. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE PRESS SOURCE, HE WAS TOLD
BY HIGH-LEVEL GOF OFFICIAL THAT 600 FRENCH PARATROOPERS
DEPARTED THE SOUTH OF FRANCE LAST NIGHT (MAY 17/18)
FOR ZAIRE AND WILL GO IN WITH BELGIAN FORCES ON
MAY 18. SOURCE WAS ALSO TOLD US AIRLIFT WOULD
ASSIST FRENCH AND BELGIAN FORCES. COMMENT: WE CANNOT
CONFIRM DEPARTURE LAST NIGHT OF FRENCH PARATROOPERS
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BUT REPORT INFO FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH. END COMMENT.
HARTMAN

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NNN

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